

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FSI-01 /027 W

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P 121255Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3834

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5671

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSI TS

SUBJECT: ENROLLMENT AT FSI ARABIC LANGUAGE SCHOOL

REF: STATE 198412

1. I AM AGREEABLE TO LOW KEY APPROACH TO GOT ON INCLUSION OF AUSTRALIAN FSO IN FSI ARABIC SCHOOL. IN PAST DECISIONS ON SCHOOL HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY, WHO IS ATTENDING NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO. AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME EVERYONE ELSE IN CHAIN OF COMMAND DOWN TO AND INCLUDING DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS ALSO ABSENT FROM TUNIS. EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTER WILL BE TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, AND WE CANNOT ASSUME IMMEDIATE ANSWER IN VIEW OF ABSENCE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS.

2. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC TO EXPECT SMITH TO BEGIN STUDY AUGUST 27, EVEN IF GOT APPROVES. IN MEANTIME, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR SMITH REQUEST TUNISIAN VISA IN CAIRO AS REQUEST MIGHT BE TRANSMITTED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND WOULD MAKE US APPEAR PRESUMPTUOUS.

3. ACCREDITATION OF AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR PARIS TO TUNISIA NOT REFLECTED IN DIPLOMATIC LIST, WHICH INCLUDES ALL NON-RESIDENT REPRESENTATION. IT IS STILL OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT AUSTRALIA REPRESENTED BY UK EMBASSY HERE. WE WILL SEEK TO CLARIFY THIS

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POINT WHEN WE RAISE QUESTION OF AUSTRALIAN STUDENT

AT FOREIGN MINISTRY.

4. WILL NOTIFY DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS OFFICIAL GOT
RESPONSE RECEIVED.
MULCAHY

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NNN

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